

IN FOCUS



The Official Publication of the Jamaican Canadian Association

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JCA Welcomes Jamaica's First Female Prime Minister

May 2006 Issue



**The Most Honourable
Portia Simpson Miller
Prime Minister of Jamaica**

"Almighty God, in the presence of all here attending; in the presence of the people of this land and everyone else sharing this occasion, I do pay homage to you in acknowledgement that you are the Sovereign and Supreme Lord God in this island and all the world".

These words may lead one to believe that a church service is in full session . In this case, it is not a church service, but the dawn of a new leader, a new

direction and new Prime Minister of Jamaica. Spoken by The Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller on her inauguration as Prime Minister of Jamaica

The Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller was born in Wood Hall, St. Catherine, December 12, 1945 and was educated at St. Martin's High School. She gained a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the

Every Jamaican has a role in her new Jamaica

University of Miami and a Certificate in Advance Management from University of California, Berkeley.

Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller has been a Member of Parliament for South East St. Andrew since 1976. She has served as Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sport, Minister of

Tourism and Sport, Minister of Local Government, Community Development and Sport. As Minister of Labour she visited Canada regularly to meet and keep in touch with the Jamaican Farm Workers.

Who is Portia Simpson-Miller?

Known for her warm hugs and kisses to all people; her devout supporters affectionately call her Sista P. She was sworn in as Jamaica's First Female Prime Minister on Thursday March 30, 2006. The inauguration was one of pomp and pageantry. Over 10,000 people attended. The guests included leaders from around the world. A sample of the attendees included Minister Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, most regional Caribbean leaders, members of the United States Congress, and

.....*continued on page 6*

**Jamaican
Canadian
Association**

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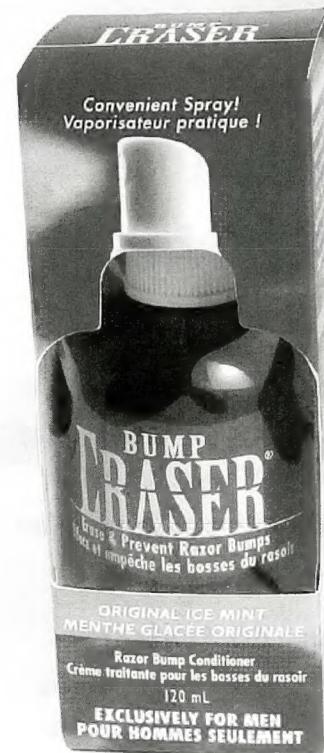
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**Notice of the
Annual
General
Meeting**

to be held at the

JCA Centre

**995 Arrow Road
North York
Ontario**

**Sunday
May 28, 2006**

1:00 pm



Inside this issue:

Editorial	3
President's Report	4
Fundraising Report	7
Election Candidates	8
Youth Pulse	11
Membership Services	12
Guest Writer Column	12
Education Corner	13
For The Brothers	14
Women's Space	15
Calendar of Events	16

Editorial

"the times they are a changing..."

This statement holds true for many events that have taken place in the Jamaican community over the last three months. Change is generally viewed cautiously and one may say, the changes that have occurred in recent months may encourage caution. That should not be considered a bad thing.

One of the major changes that would cause folks who normally are indifferent to what is happening both at home in Jamaica and here in the Jamaican-Canadian Diaspora would definitely be the inauguration of the Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller as the first ever female Prime Minister of Jamaica. That has had a whole new group of people talking and that should be considered a good thing. We wish her well and extend our support to help her and the cabinet create needed successes for Jamaica and Jamaicans everywhere.

The next change that has had many Jamaicans taking note is the arrival of Jamaica's new Consul General to Toronto. Mrs. Anne-Marie Bonner arrived in Toronto in early April and like her predecessor Ms. Vivia Betton, Mrs. Bonner

has engaged the hearts of her Jamaican charges with warmth and the true Jamaican spirit.

Making it very clear at the community welcome held in her honour, Mrs. Bonner stated that she would be making investments in Jamaica a priority of her tenure. She has spoken well and we support her vision. At this time, Jamaica needs investments and business ventures to ensure growth and to maintain its place in the global marketplace.

Mrs. Bonner stated that she would be making investments in Jamaica a priority of her tenure

Jamaica is more than reggae and the now infamous first place in crime rating. She promises to increase the flow of business ventures between Jamaica and Canada with both Jamaicans living in Canada as well as Canadians making Jamaica their first choice.

Mrs. Bonner comes to Toronto directly from the Cabinet Office in Jamaica where she was Principal Director of the Policy Analysis and Review Unit. She has made it clear that she looks forward to working closely with the community.

The community takes great pleasure in welcoming her and as with all former Consul Generals, we will fully support her endeavours and work assiduously to ensure her success. The community, as always, demands much from our representatives and as such, Mrs. Bonner is fully aware that she will be kept fully engaged in the many events that Jamaicans are known to have as we attempt to maintain our culture while always being mindful of finding ways to help our homeland through the various alma maters and foundations.

Mrs. Bonner, please accept our welcome and our support while we look forward to working hand in hand with you.

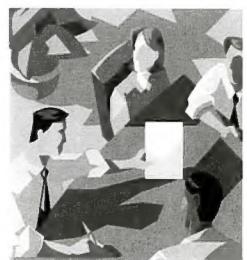
On another note: The genocide in Darfur continues while the leaders of the first world continue to discuss and determine if what is happening there is really genocide. The question is, 'how many people must die before the leaders accept the fact that it is genocide - 6 million?' Will the march held in New York on April 30, 2006 shake these leaders out of their slumber? Darfur needs the world!

by Claudette Cameron-Stewart



Mrs. Bonner
**Jamaica's Counsel
General to Toronto**

**"Mrs.
Bonner,
please accept
our welcome
and our
support
while we
look forward
to working
hand in hand
with you"**





**Sandra Carnegie-Douglas
JCA President**

"We remain purposeful in our work and direction in serving and being fully engaged in the African Canadian and Caribbean communities"



Sandra Carnegie-Douglas presents P.J Patterson with Award

President's Report — A Message From The President

Community Landscape

As we come to our organizational year-end and start a new one, I believe it is fitting, that I share with you some of the "Nuff Tings" your organization has been doing. Indeed, this past year for The JCA and the communities we serve, has seen many highs and many lows both here in Canada and in Jamaica. We have faced many challenges, learned some lessons and achieved some successes along the way!

Indeed, one could easily define this past year as a turning point for JCA. Under the leadership of this current Board, we made it our task to put the organization on a track to address the organizational challenges, implement operational changes and to put the Association on a forward-looking path of growth and enhanced operations. An immediate step we undertook, as a Board, was to refocus the organization's vision statement and establish a set of principles to guide the work of the Association. In support of this vision, we have started a process of reviewing, developing and improving our operational policies, practices and systems to

enhance the Association's overall functioning.

As you will read from the reports of the standing committees, they continue to deliver their staple programs and activities, while adjusting to the changes that are being gradually implemented to enhance their functioning.

While we have been addressing the internal aspects of the Association, we have also made it a priority to enhance JCA's voice and visibility in the broader community, and the country for that matter. JCA has long been the pre-eminent voice advocating on the social and political agendas of the day as they impact our communities. Here is a snapshot of some of the issues the Association has been tackling.

* As I have been reporting to you in previous issues of the In Focus, JCA continues to play an active and visible role in the Coalition of African Canadian Community Organizations (The Coalition). The Coalition, formed in the summer of 2005 in response to the surge of gun violence, is now formally registered as a non-profit organization. Over its nine-month existence, it has gen-

erated local, national and international attention to, and dialogue on, the situation of the African Canadian Community in Ontario, and the particular devastating impact of gun violence on the lives of African Canadian youth and the community as a whole. The work of The Coalition has been a catalyst in the increased activism of other groups and constituencies focusing on the gun violence, the systemic issues and the disparate socio-economic conditions African Canadians face - conditions that contribute to the gun violence and criminal activity. The Coalition's work has also been the impetus for the formation of other broad-based Coalitions on this issue.

In many ways, we can say The Coalition has been instrumental in mobilizing government response on this issue including, the various funding initiatives announced by the Ontario Government, including the \$28.5 M announced for the Youth Opportunities Initiatives; responses by public institutions including the Toronto Police Services Board, among others. The JCA continues to play an active role in The Coalition and its work.

...continued from page 4

President's Report

Political Landscape

On the political scene there are many changes that are afoot by the Ontario Government that will have implications for the many communities that JCA serve.

* The Safe Schools Act. The provincial government has embarked on a process to review the Safe Schools Act. We believe that this Act has a negative impact on most of our children and we have written to the Minister of Education calling for its repeal. We appreciate the need for the security of students and personnel, but we must ensure that our children are not further marginalized and disenfranchised by security measures.

* Toronto District School Board (TDSB). JCA registered its objection with the Toronto District School Board to a motion put forward by Trustee Scott Harrison, Scarborough Centre, to eliminate Black History Month and replace it with a generalized "Heritage Month". This is not an acceptable change and any attempt to do so will be challenged with vigour.

* The McGuinty Government has tabled legislation (Bill 103) to establish an Independent Police Review

Director and create a new independent public complaints process. This long-awaited move is in response to the calls from many communities and organizations, including The JCA, and the report submitted by Judge Patrick LeSage. It is important that communities stay engaged in this process as the Bill makes its way through the Legislature to passage. While we have concerns about some areas of the Bill, we are encouraged by its direction.

* Reform of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The McGuinty Government has also introduced legislation (Bill 107) to amend the Human Rights Code. The amendment will reform the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

While reform to the OHRC is needed, many groups are concerned about some of the proposed changes which will have serious ramifications for victims of discrimination and racism. The proposed "direct access model" – going directly to the Tribunal – it is felt, will seriously limit complainants' access by requiring them to seek legal assistance. This Bill appears to be in "fast-track" mode as it is about to go to Committee stage

where Ontarians can comment directly on it.

* For the first time in its recent history, The JCA organized two separate educational fora to engage the African Canadian community on the electoral politics agenda. JCA and Operation Black Vote Canada, organized a "Voters' Education Forum for the African Canadian Community". And, in partnership with The Coalition and other member organizations such as the Jane Finch Concerned Citizens Organization (JFCCO),

we hosted "All Candidates Debate on the African Canadian Agenda" during the 2006 federal election.

On The Homefront

* On the Jamaican tip, The JCA has also been keeping abreast and connected to the important developments in the country:

* The JCA Centre was the venue for fond farewells to Consul General, Miss Vivia Betton and Prime Minister P.J Patterson, respectively.

* Applause and congratulations were sent to Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller on becoming the leader of the People's National Party and the Prime



Jamaica's Minister of Industry and Tourism Aloun N'Dombet-Assamba and Melody Brown, Executive Director of the JCA

"The JCA Centre was the venue for fond farewells to Consul General, Miss Vivia Betton and Prime Minister P.J Patterson"



Former Prime Minister P.J. is presented farewell gifts from Philip Mascoll of Jamaica Diaspora Canada Foundation

continued on page 11



**Prime Minister
Portia Simpson-Miller
greets former
Jamaican Prime
Minister P.J.
Patterson**

**"I charge
you to help
me serve
this
country,
not to be
master
over the
people"**

New Jamaican Prime Minister

... continued from page 1

Jamaicans from every walk of life to whom she has never failed to show love. It was indeed a memorable occasion.

In conferring the mantle of Prime Minister on the Hon. Simpson-Miller, it was not a myth when Governor General Hall stated that the momentous event of the selection of Portia Simpson-Miller as the first female Prime Minister of Jamaica

"could be traced back to the early history of the people of the New World". Women, he said, "were courageous enough to build and maintain their families, yet audacious enough to challenge and accelerate the conquest of slavery and colonialism".

It is this tradition from which Portia Simpson-Miller comes. It is no surprise that many rank and file Jamaicans refer to her metaphorically as Mama P. She epitomizes what the sociologist Edith Clarke refers to as

"My Mother Who Fathered Me". She is from that long line of Jamaican women whose spirit and true grit can be traced to Nanny of the Maroons. She is the Lionheart Gal, depicted in Honor Ford Smith's Life Stories of Jamaican Women.

During her campaign for the leadership of the People's

National Party (PNP), and continuing after her inauguration, Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller is urging people to see her election as one in which all Jamaicans work with her for the common good. She states:

"We cannot build harmony and peace that this society so desperately need unless all Jamaicans know that they will be treated with dignity and respect.

I pledge to ensure that the interests of all our people are protected, and that victimization never rears its ugly head under my administration.

I charge you to help me serve this country, not to be master over the people.

We need every single Jamaican on board to help us achieve the vision of a peaceful and prosperous country.

The traditional communities of influence must be brought back to the sphere of influence. The family, the Church, community and school, which were one time, the pillars upon which we built our country. There will be meaningful consultation at the community level for all policies affecting communities."

Portia Simpson-Miller is throwing down the gauntlet that the chain is as strong as its weakest link, and that every Jamaican has a role in her new Jamaica. Her government will provide the leadership, but the people themselves are integral parts of a future successful Jamaica as she said in this statement; *"Ladies and gentlemen, there is nothing that can withstand the force of an energized, confident, united, determined and visionary people"*.

In other words, the government alone will not be able to fulfill the dream, but together we will do so.

"The Prime Minister's task is onerous", said Dr. Christopher A. Johnson, "but with her communitarian approach and natural instinct for viable partnerships, Jamaica and her people will benefit immensely from genuine stewardship of the country's first female Prime Minister."

The Jamaican Canadian Association, as an integral part of the Jamaican Diaspora wishes our first female Prime Minister the Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller, our best wishes. The Association will continue to cooperate with her government as we have done with previous governments.

by Dr. Vincent G Conville &
Claudette Cameron-Stewart

Fundraising Report

Workshop / Seminars on Corporate partnerships

Learning and Development for our Board as it relates to fundraising, will involve more workshops and seminars on an ongoing basis.

Topics will include but not limited to fund development, understanding the relationship between non-profits and the corporate sector, current trends, standard business practices, non-disclosure agreements and liabilities and business code of ethics.

The Board of Directors extend a special thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their commitment and dedication, keeping the committee together and staying the course, through some difficult and challenging times. This is the spirit on which The JCA was founded and it is heartening to see that the spirit is still there! Going forward, it is our hope that a renewed and revived fundraising committee will emerge to take up the challenge as we begin to explore some new fundraising initiatives for this new fiscal year.

We ask that you continue to support the fundraising committee. Take all your ideas to the table; (there are no bad ideas), and let's all work together to make positive things happen for our organization. To enhance the fundraising and add some depth to the 'giving', we will be hiring a staff to carry out the bulk of the work as fundraising is indeed a full-time job.

We hope to embark on some major fundraising initiatives starting with a Direct Mail Campaign that we hope to get off the ground by the end of June 2006. Please look out for this package coming to a mailbox near you, very soon!

Boonoonoonoos Brunch

The Brunch was held on February 12th, and was not as successful as in previous years. To that end, the Board has recognized the need for a change of format and/or structure and a major review of this project will be undertaken before the next scheduled event in 2007.

As a major fundraiser for the organization, it is imperative that we undertake this review in an effort to bring the event back to the financial success it has been in the past and can still be for the organization.

New Years Eve

We continue to experience low attendance for this event and will also be reviewing the structure and format to explore ways and means to increase attendance and improve the event.

"This is the spirit on which The JCA was founded and it is heartening to see that the spirit is still there"



...continued on page 11



**Membership has its
privileges: You get to
Choose your Board of
Directors.**

**The
Nominating
Committee is
pleased to
present the
following slate
of candidates
for the
positions that
are open this
year:**

**President
2 year term**

**Education
Chair
2 year term**

**Building Chair
2 year term**

**Fundraising
Chair
2 year term**

**Executive
Secretary
2 year term**

Candidates' Profiles For JCA 2006 Election

SANDRA CARNEGIE-DOUGLAS for President

Sandra Carnegie-Douglas has worked extensively in the areas of human rights and social justice both within the public sector and grassroots community organizations. As an advocate against sexist racist oppression she has been vigilant in her analyses of the integration of gender and race in her work and interactions. Her work has been focused primarily in the areas of policy, advocacy, organizational change and community development.

In June 2005 Sandra became President of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). She has also held previous volunteer positions with the association including holding the positions of Vice-President and Fundraising chairperson on the Board of Directors. In 1997 she chaired a task force that undertook an organizational review of the JCA.

Sandra currently works with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation as Program Director, Policy and Special Projects.

She is a former Executive Coordinator of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), a national feminist organization that advocates for women's equality rights.

Within the public sector, she has worked with the former Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority and the Ministry of Housing (Ontario) as

an investigator and trainer on harassment and discrimination issues within the workplace and residential settings.

Sandra is a past President of Ujamaa Young People's Association, a youth organization that advocated on issues facing African Canadian youth in the education system and criminal justice system. The group also engaged in activities promoting the economic and political development of African Canadian youth.

Sandra's work has taken her into the international arena where she continues to advance the human rights and social justice agendas. She has participated in various meetings of the United Nations (UN) including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN Third World Conference Against Racism.

She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. She also has a Certificate in Human Resources Management, Ryerson University.

More recently, in August 2005, through her role as president of the JCA, Sandra co-founded The Coalition of African Canadian Community Organizations (The Coalition) to mobilize community action to address the gun violence and the underlying root causes impacting the African Canadian community.

KEITH HAYE - for Building Chair

Education and Training

- Keith Haye hails from the garden parish of St Ann in Jamaica. Received formal education at Ferncourt High School in Claremont St Ann.
- Graduated from the University of the West Indies with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Studies.
- Pursued post graduate studies in Public Administration.

Work Experience

- Worked as an accountant for several years and is currently focused on his Real Estate investments.

Volunteer Experience

- Currently serves on the Membership Committee at the JCA. In Jamaica, served several organizations in a voluntary capacity; these include the Jamaica Football Federation where he served as Assistant Manager to The national U23 Football team.
- Treasurer of the Kingston and St Andrew Business House Football Association.
- President of the University Sports ad Social Club as well as serving various service clubs in St Ann in different capacities.
- Currently the First Vice-President of the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations and President of Ferncourt Alumni Association here in Toronto.

NORMA BROWN-LARRO - for Executive Secretary

An active JCA supporter/member for over 25 years, I have served and continue to serve on several committees within the organization. I have a good understanding of non-profit organizations and the responsibilities and time commitment required.

I own and operate Browns Paralegal Associates and work for some of the major accounting firms as an Insolvency Analyst or Paralegal.

JCA Volunteer Activities

- Past Chair of the Fundraising Committee
- Past Chair of the Social Committee
- Past member of the Management Committee
- Member of the Scholarship Committee
- Member of the Public Relations Committee

Education

- Business Administration
- CGA level (3)
- Paralegal/Legal Assistant

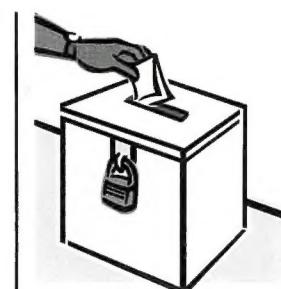
Other Volunteer Activities

- Treasurer, Arts and Culture Jamaica Inc,
- Past Fundraising Committee Chair - WOMEN for PACE;
- Past President, Caribbean and African Chamber of Commerce
- Past President UNIA
- Past member of OPBC
- Past Scholarship Awards Chair, John Brooks Community Foundation
- Past Member East York Race Relations Committee

Skills

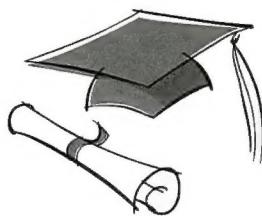
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Good understanding of protocols
- Excellent organizational management

**See more Election Candidates'
Profiles on page 10**



**Aug 6, 2006
Annual Flag
Raising
ceremony
at Toronto
City Hall in
honour of
Jamaica's
44 years of
Independence**





**Remember
to mark
your
calendars
for the
August 19,
2006
Independence
Gala and
the
Quarterly
Membership
Meeting
scheduled
for August
27, 2006**



International Women's Day celebrations at the JCA Centre



03/19/2006

SYLVANUS THOMPSON, MSc., BSc., CPHI(C)

Education and Training include

- MSc. in Food Science (University of Guelph); BSc. in Public Health (Ryerson University); Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada); Diploma in Veterinary Public Health; Certificate in Processed Food Inspection (Texas A&M University); Certified Food Safety Trainer (Education Foundation, USA); Certificate in Organizational Excellence; and Royal Society of Health Diploma in Public Health (Jamaica). Current Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in administration candidate.

Work Experience

- Currently the Quality Assurance Manager for Toronto Public Health's Healthy Environments Program.
- Played a major role in the development of the present Food Safety Inspection and Disclosure Program, that requires the posting of Red, Yellow or Green Inspection Notice.
- Responsible for the daily monitoring of the program and the updating of the DineSafe website with the inspection results. Also responsible for evaluating the Healthy Environments programs and services, developing policies and procedures, standards and performance measures to ensure efficiency and consistency.
- Represents the Department on several sub-committees and serves on the Ontario Ministry of Health Justice Haines Food Safety Recommendation Implementation Committee.
- Worked in various supervisory and management positions with the Ministry of Health in Jamaica including Chief Public

Health Inspector and Veterinary Public Health Coordinator. Served on various national and regional committees such as Norms and Standards Committee and National Task Force on Health and Tourism. Associate Lecturer West Indies School of Public Health and Cornwall School of Nursing.

Professional and Academic Achievements and Awards

- Recipient of several awards including Ontario Government Scholarship for academic achievement and the Ontario Food Protection Association Award for outstanding contribution to food safety. On Deans Honors List for both years at Ryerson University. Recipient of the Most Outstanding Public Health Inspector (Jamaica) award on two occasions and the Jamaican Association of Public Health Inspectors

- President Award twice for outstanding contribution to public health. The 2005 Recipient of the JCA

- President Award for outstanding contribution to the Association.

• Member of various professional organizations such as the American Society for Quality, Canadian Public Health Association, National Environmental Health Association, and Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Past community and volunteer experience include President of the Jamaican Association of Public Health Inspectors; Vice President of St. James Cricket Association; President Rosemount Gardens Citizens Association; and Public Relations Officer, Cornwall Regional Hospital Staff Club. Currently a Board Member and Chair of the Education and Cultural Committee, Jamaican Canadian Association.

Youth Pulse

Summer Days

As the lazy, hazy days of summer approach, there's a thunderous wave of rejoicing bursting forth. Young people everywhere are excited for another summer break. Gone are the days of endless assignments, nail-biting exams, late night studies and annoying alarm clocks...well, at least for the next few months.

Whether you plan to work, play or stay away on vacation, consider using the extra time to help your community. No matter how young you may be, never doubt your ability to influence, inspire and impact others around you. Volunteer opportunities are limitless! For any and every type of interest, there's an organization or individual that exists to

help you further expand that interest.

There are numerous benefits to volunteering. It not only brings a renewed sense of confidence and gratification but it's a great way to build contacts as you interact with people from various walks of life. It also enables you as a young person to develop career building and social skills that will be useful in other facets of life.

Youth volunteers bring boundless energy and fresh perspectives that help add to the vitality of an organization. Giving back doesn't necessarily start or stop with an organization but can begin right within your circle of family and friends. If you are in a position to positively impact an individual struggling with the tempta-

tion of peer pressure and negative activity, then step in and be a mentor. Just think about the win-win situation: while enhancing your personal development, you're also contributing to the well being of another individual, as well as the entire community.

The JCA offers numerous ways to put your skills in motion through its various committees and services.

e.g. Youth Affairs, Women, Education, Membership, Saturday Morning Tutorial Program, etc. Feel free to contact the JCA at 416-746-5772 for more info.

Whatever your plan is this summer, make the time to give back and don't forget to have FUN!

Have a safe summer!

by: Natasha Blake



Natasha Blake

**"Never doubt
your ability
to influence,
inspire and
impact
others
around you"**

President ...continued from page 5

Minister of Jamaica (including the distinction as the first woman to hold both positions -- no small feat!).

* We welcomed the new Consul General to Toronto, Mrs. Anne-Marie Bonner, and look forward to the dynamic work we are certain she will do here in Canada.

So, we have embarked on a path to strengthen the Asso-

ciation. Of course, we know this will take some time and that we will meet challenges along the way. However, we remain purposeful in our work and direction in serving and being fully engaged in the African Canadian and Caribbean communities. We remain determined in fulfilling our vision to strengthen the Association.

Nuff Respect!

by: Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

Fundraising ...continued from pg 7

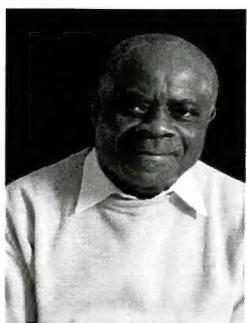
acceptable because it conveys the impression of partisan political activity by a registered charity. Registered charities are not permitted to carry on partisan political activities. Therefore, they cannot devote any resources to such activities.

We wish you, your families and your friends a safe and enjoyable summer!

by: Norma Brown-Larro



The lazy, hazy days of summer approach

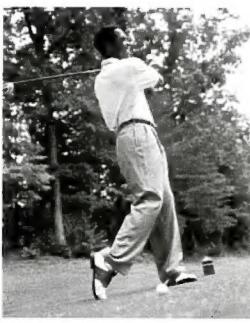


Anton Squire
Membership Services

July 9, 2006

Membership Committee

Hosts Annual Picnic at Boyd Conservation Area



Annual JCA Golf Tournament
August 12, 2006

Membership Services

It has been a privilege to have served you as Membership Chair over the past year. As a membership organization we are reminded that our base is our people. Along with the membership committee we have worked hard to give the members the support necessary.

Some events planned for 2006 include:

Sunday July 9, 2006, The Annual Picnic will be on at Boyd Conservation Area. This should be a day of fun for everyone!

On Sunday August 6, 2006 at 2:00 pm, JCA will have

its Annual Flag Raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall, in honour of Jamaica's 44 years of Independence.

Sunday, September 17, 2006 Seniors brunch at 1:00 pm.

Sunday, December 10, 2006 Annual Children's Christmas Party will be at 1:00 pm

Please note these dates on your calendar.

A quick reminder to all members that 2006 Membership fees are due. To be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting, your 2005

membership must be paid by March 31, 2006.

SHOWING OUR LOVE

Our dear Mr. David Sinclair is now in Tyndale Nursing Home on Eglinton Avenue, in Mississauga. Please remember him and all the others that are sick and shut-ins, in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to Pansy Stewart and her family as she just lost her mother. From the Membership Services Committee, enjoy a beautiful spring and a great summer!

*by: Anton Squire
Membership Services Chair*

Special Guest Writer

TID BITS

This is an historic year for us. Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, became the first female Prime Minister of Jamaica since Independence.

Another important event was the installation on February 15, 2006 of Professor Keith Hall as Jamaica's fifth Governor General replacing Sir Howard Cooke who went in retirement after fifteen years of service. He was the first Governor General to come from Academia.

Turning to golf, the season is fast approaching and the JCA Golf Committee is busy making plans for the 2006 Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday,

At the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne

Australia, Jamaica created history in the 100 metres (men's and women's) winning gold in both races as well the relays, finishing with seven medals.

Michaelle Jean, was sworn in on September 27, 2005 as Canada's 27th Governor General. She is the third woman and the first person of African descent to hold this position.

Turning to golf, the season is fast approaching and the JCA Golf Committee is busy making plans for the 2006 Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday,

Please contact Alton Telfer at 416-292-4551 for further

...continued on page 13

Education Corner

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) hosted the North York West Chapter of the 2006 Spelling Bee Canada Competition. This is the second consecutive year that the Organization has hosted this competition. Our involvement included promoting the event, registration, hosting of the Regional Finals, coaching of the participants, co-ordinating various administrative functions and identifying suitable volunteers as officials for the competition.

Over one hundred children between the ages of 6-15 years participated in both the Junior and Senior categories of the 2005 Regional Championship, which was held on Sunday May 1st, 2005 at the JCA. Approximately 60 children participated in this year's competition under the

Tid Bits ...continued from page 12

information on any of the above suggestions.

If you or your friends wish to play in the tournament, please use the same contact number.

To conclude, I would like to wish you and your families an enjoyable summer!

by: Alton Telfer



Scholarship Awards
September 16, 2006
Watch for Details

theme "Education + Perseverance = Success". The winner and 1st runner-up from each category will represent the JCA Chapter at the Ontario Championship Finals at the University of Toronto in May.

Founded in 1987, Spelling Bee of Canada is a grassroots educational volunteer organization, with a focus on supporting youth excellence in language arts with an emphasis on reading, spelling and writing. In today's high-tech environment, Spelling Bee of Canada recognizes that it is essential to equip students with the tools that will enable them to comprehend the mass of information available through various media. The proficiency of spelling is an integral part of childhood education, which is

beneficial in forming life-long, positive habits.

The Spelling Bee is an incredible demonstration and celebration of our multicultural diversity. Each year, participants come from many nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, JCA members and the wider African/Canadian community are being encouraged to let their children participate in the event. In addition to enhancing their comprehension and communication skills, students will develop self esteem, confidence and interpersonal skills from being exposed to positive role models, coaches and peer support throughout the course of preparation. All the children are WINNERS just by participating in this positive spelling exchange.

Spelling Bee of Canada and the JCA are very grateful to the staff, members and other volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. Additionally, the JCA has every reason to be a proud participant as the founder of the competition, Julie Spence, is one of its members.

*by: Sylvanus Thompson
Education Committee Chair and Spelling Bee Chapter President*



Sylvanus Thompson
Education Committee

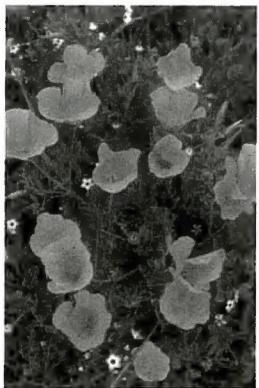


Winners of the Spelling Bee Competition
Top & Middle: Senior's category, Bottom: Jr. category



Claude McKay
1889-1948

"the poem If We Must Die was quoted by Winston Churchill during World War II to rally British troops"



For The Brothers

JAMAICAN IMMIGRANTS AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE PART II

Claude McKay (1889-1948)

In part one we dealt with the role of J. A. Rogers the self-taught historian, anthropologist and journalist in the Harlem Renaissance. In part two of this series, the spotlight will be focused on Claude McKay. The Black cultural movement of the 1920s through the 1930s brought about the coming of age of the Black population of the United States of America in arts, music and literature with Harlem as its epicentre. This renaissance was greatly influenced by Black immigrants from the Caribbean.

McKay's Contribution to the Renaissance

On his arrival in Harlem, McKay linked up with the community's artists and activists. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he was able to exist within the white and Black artists' communities. Because Claude McKay was able to straddle both communities, his works attracted attention by whites as well as blacks to the literary movement in Harlem.

McKay's volume of poetry, *Harlem Shadows* (1922), became one of the first works by a Black writer to be published by a mainstream, national publisher (Harcourt, Brace and Company). (Cary DeCordova Wintz, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.)

Claude began writing poetry. McKay had a stint at cabinet making and also spent some time in the Jamaica Constabulary Force. He left Jamaica in 1912 for the United

States where he attended Tuskegee Institute for two years with the aim of becoming an agronomist. McKay left Tuskegee and completed his studies at Kansas State College. In 1914, McKay left Kansas for New York, married his childhood sweetheart, and set up residence in Harlem. His marriage did not last long, and his wife returned to Jamaica.

McKay moved to Morocco in 1930, but returned to the USA in 1934 because of financial difficulties.

A whole generation of

...continued on page 15

sors during the Red Summer of 1919. His sonnet *If We Must Die*, became the war cry of protesters. Interestingly, the poem *If We Must Die* was quoted by Winston Churchill during World War II, to rally British troops.

One might call this man of letters an enigma. He at times abhorred the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, seeing them as pandering to whites to give them the sign of approval for their works. He was especially disappointed with W.E.B. Du Bois and Alain Locke for discouraging Black Artists from portraying Black experiences honestly. McKay left the USA in 1919 for London England to work for a communist newspaper. He returned to USA in 1920 for the publication of his first volumes of poetry *Spring In New Hampshire* (1920) and *Harlem Shadows* (1922).

McKay was an ardent communist. He left the USA for Russia in 1922. While abroad, he wrote *Home to Harlem* and *Banjo*, two of his best sellers.

Most Jamaicans would have learnt Claude McKay's Flame Heart:

Women's Space

On Sunday, March 19, 2006, the Women's Committee held their annual International Women's Day Celebration at the JCA. This was also an opportunity for the Women's Committee to hon-



Honorees for International Women's Day

Brothers ...continued from page 14

American poets and writers such as Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson and Countee Cullen cited

McKay as a leading inspirational force for their works. McKay's works are filled with Jamaican themes and images, yet, he never returned to his homeland.

The event culminated with refreshments, which gave the audience a chance to spend time greeting old friends and meeting new ones.

It was a delightful afternoon and the members of the Women's Committee should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

by: Camille Hannays-King

our ten female volunteers for their service to the JCA and to the community.

The honorees received certificates to thank them for their contributions to the JCA, but it was also an ac-

knowledgement of the significance and importance of volunteering and giving back to the community.

The event was Emceed by Marcia Williams of the CBC, and started off with the Canadian and Jamaican national anthems, sung by the JCA's Bruce McDonald.

The audience was captivated by the dancing and drumming of Ballet Creole and listened with keen attention to the thought provoking keynote speech by Paulette Senior, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Canada. The audience was in rapt attention as Carmen Sutherland, a member of the Women's Committee recited a poem written by the Chair of the Committee, Camille Hannays-King.

And what month brings the shy for-get-me-not.

I have forgot the special, startling season

Of the pimento's flowering and fruiting;

What time of year the ground doves brown the fields

And fill the noonday with their curious fluting.

I have forgotten much, but still remember

The poinsettia's red, blood-red in warm December".

Sources cited:

Selvin Holt, Claude McKay

James L. Allen, Freda Scott Giles, Claude McKay's Life.

by: Dr. Vincent G. Conville

I Am Your Mother

Poem by: Yvonne Davidson

I am your mother, and you are my child. I, your mother shall protect you from this evil world. I will not make you hurt or want, for I am your mother, and through the love of God I shall rebuke the evil that lurks and yearns for your blood. I am your mother and this is my pledge: I will keep you safe until I rest my head.

I am your mother, for I bore you into this world, I will not forsake you, nor will I judge you, for I am your mother and I adore and love you. When I look into your eyes I see the future bright, you are tall, strong and built like a man who is ready take on whatever cometh on this land.

When I touch your hands I feel your strength; there are no words to express in length the way I feel about you my child. When I touch your chest I feel your heart pound in hopes that one day you can bring good change to this crazy and evil world.

Your face is smooth and peaceful just like the day you were born, when I took you in my arms, so I could smell your tiny yawn. You are my child and I know this much is true; you were created in love; you are smart, gentle, fine and true.

I am your mother, I love you with all my heart, and I would give my life for you without a second thought, in hope that all children of this earth can be free from harm and hurt. I am your mother, and this prayer I pray: Dear Lord I ask of you today to keep all children out of harms lengthy way, and send your angels to watch over them today. I am your mother! I am your mother!!



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Letters and Submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials.

Reflection of JCA Events in Pictures



JCA Calendar of Events

Please note: the following event dates were submitted to the PR Committee by the printing deadline

Walkathon	Fundraising	May 7, 2006
Mother's Day	Fundraising	May 14, 2006
Annual General Meeting	Board	May 28, 2006
Annual Picnic	Membership	July 9, 2006
Flag Raising	Board	August 6, 2006
Church Service	Consulate	August 6, 2006
Independence Gala	Board	August 19, 2006
Quarterly Membership Meeting	Board	August 27, 2006
Scholarship Awards	Education	September 16, 2006
Health Fair	Education / Women's	October 14, 2006
Quarterly Meeting	Board	November 26, 2006
New Year's Eve Gala	Fundraising	December 31, 2006